#### DANA POINT WETLANDS PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

27265 Calle Anejo Capistrano Beach, CA 92624-1829 (949) 240-8061, prtappan@cox.net, (949) 493-7181 Fax

May 2, 2003

#### **Dear Board Members:**

This binder is provided to you so that you may have a better understanding of the actual size of the wetlands that we lost. It is much bigger than it is being portrayed.

We want to make it very clear that we do not question the credentials of Tony Bomkamp, Biologist, of Glenn Lukos Associates. However, his finds in his report of June 6, 2002 were in error. Mr. Bomkamp did not feel this was a wetlands. Therefore, we feel he did not spend the necessary time to delineate the area properly. His enclosed field drawings appear to be approximations versus accurate measurements.

Our enclosures are mainly documents that Pioneer Builders has presented to the City of Dana Point. Using their own documents, we feel we made a compelling case to actually increase the size from The Corps present delineation of .066 acres to .1415 acre.

We look forward to seeing you at the May 16, 2003 Regional Board Meeting in San Diego. If you have any questions in the mean time, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely

Pam R. Tappan

**DPWPA** 

# CAPISTRANO BEACH

# WETLANDS DELINEATION

APRIL 30, 2003

PRESENTED BY

PAM R. TAPPAN &
BARBARA DRUMMOND



#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PO BOX 532711
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90053-2325

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

April 1, 2003

Office of the Chief Regulatory Branch

Ms. Pam Tappan 27265 Calle Anejo Capistrano Beach, California 92624

Dear Ms. Tappan:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your request for information concerning our determination of geographical extent of waters of the United States, located at the 2-acre site known as the Castillo del Mar development, along Camino Capistrano in the community of Capistrano Beach, in the city of Dana Point, Orange County, California.

During a site visit made by my staff, Mr. Russ Kaiser and Ms. Corice Farrar on January 31, 2003, Pioneer Builders' representative, Mr. Paul Douglas stated the length of the drainage was approximately 175 feet and the width was variable between 3 to 25 feet wide. At that time, you expressed to my staff disagreement with the estimate and stated you thought the extent of the "wetland" was likely closer to 0.1 acre, based on your recollection of the vegetation. However, no detailed jurisdictional delineation was provided to my staff at that time. Furthermore, since the site had been disturbed by grading activities, my staff were unable to determine the exact jurisdictional extent of wetland waters of the United States in the field.

For clarification purposes, wetland waters of the United States are those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, the prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (40 CFR 230.3). Without specific detailed information on areal extent of jurisdictional wetlands meeting the requisite parameters (hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydrology), we issued our letter to Pioneer Builders concerning Corps jurisdiction, dated February 4, 2003, that requested additional information on activity, including impacts to an estimated 0.1- acre jurisdictional wetland.

Subsequently, we received notification from Glenn Lukos Associates (GLA), dated February 19, 2003, which included field notes and sketch of site by biologist Tony Bomkamp of GLA, dated May 28, 2002. The site diagram was drawn on gridded paper. The length of the drainage, approximately 175 feet, was divided into 20-foot segments with cross-sectional widths indicated for each segment. GLA concluded jurisdictional waters of the United States were 0.04 acres.

My staff reviewed GLA's sketch and calculated the square footage for each of nine different 20-foot segments (180 linear feet) based on the cross-sectional widths indicated on the drawing. The enclosed diagram (Exhibit 1) shows the calculations made by my staff for each segment. For example, my staff calculated segment 2 to be approximately 430 sf (25′ W x 20′ L). Additionally, my staff cross-referenced the extent determined from the sketch with the hydrology report (Toal Engineering, 2002) and geology report (Via Geos, 2001). For segment 3, GLA indicated the width of the drainage was approximately 25 feet wide; however, Via Geos dug trench E3 and observed mottled soils (an indicator of hydric soils) at approximately 41 feet from the east property line (Exhibit 2). In the absence of confirmation of sufficient hydrology and hydrophytic vegetation at 41 feet from the fence, my staff calculated the area for segment 3 using both a 25-foot and 40-foot width. Both areas for segment 3 were used to obtain a range for the calculated total area for the entire drainage.

Therefore, based on the diagram and the other supporting documentation, we calculated the range of jurisdictional wetland to be from 0.048 to 0.054 acre, or approximately 0.05-acre area of impact. We determined the required compensatory mitigation for 0.05-acre of impact to wetland waters of the United States to be 0.25 acre (5:1 mitigation ratio) of wetland waters of the United States.

If you have any questions, please contact Corice J. Farrar of my staff at (213) 452-3296. Please refer to this letter and 200300461-CJF in your reply.

Sincerely.

Mark Durham

Chief, South Coast Section

Regulatory Branch

Enclosure(s)

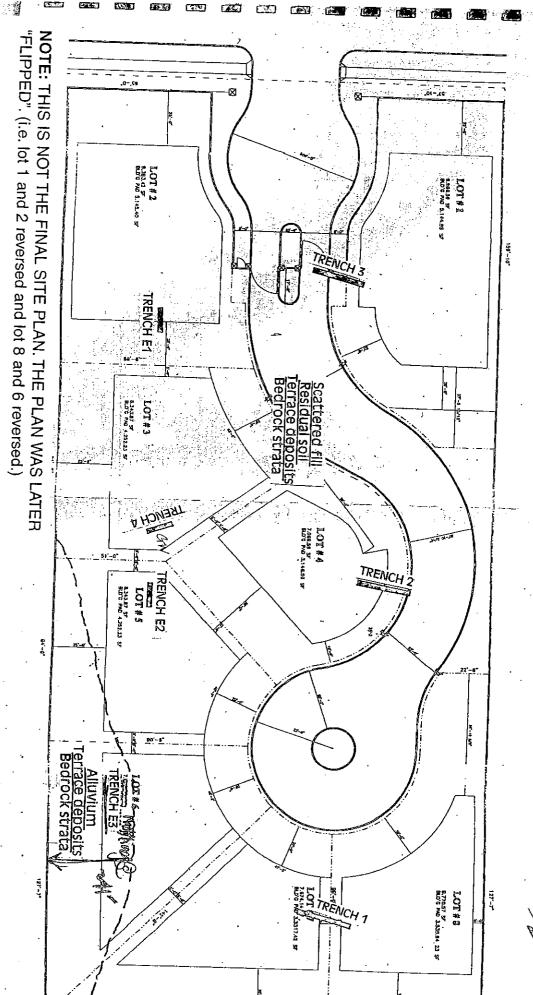
cc: Jeremy Haas, Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region Donna Cobb, California Department of Fish and Game, South Coast Region

#### Cited References:

- 1. Glenn Lukos Associates. Pre-Construction Notification for Castillo Del Mar Project, Dana Point, California. February 19, 2003.
- 2. Toal Engineering. Hydrology/Hydraulics Study for Pioneer Builders, Eight Lot Subdivision, Castillo Del Mar, Dana Point, California. October 21, 2002.
- 3. Via Geos Consulting Engineering Geologists. Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation for Residential Development, Lots 45 & 46, Tract No. 1127 (Tentative Tract No. 16197), Dana Point, California. March 26, 2001.

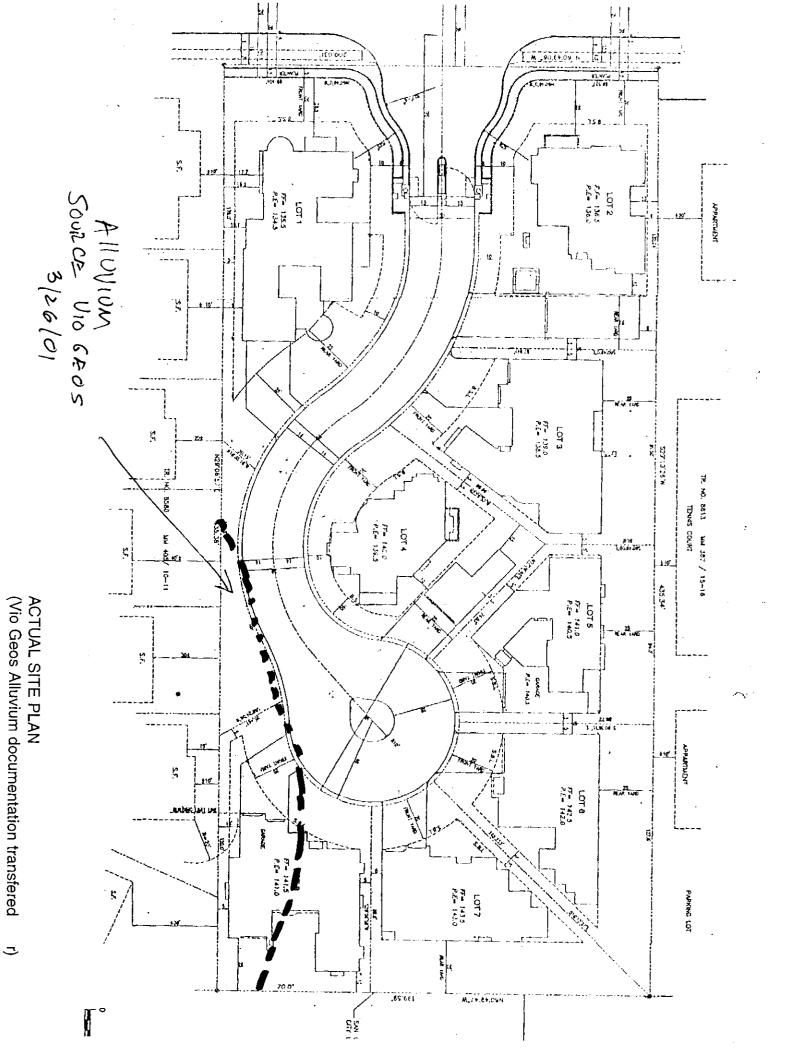


SCALE 1" = 30"



SEE CURRENT SITE PLAN NEXT PAGE

Source: Via Geos 3/26/01



ACTUAL SITE PLAN
(Vio Geos Alluvium documentation transfered

Roma Roma 218-02 MOST House First Historical nos-Avena THE SAME AND Brokus John Lollon Merco AD. CITTER lenceline 430ST ands. 350SF 2-130x ma 100 12.3 130 wash. robusta 705F 140 150 605P 2070 S 10 2370 calculations of stootage of

#### DISPROVING WETLAND SIZE

#### HOW WE DETERMINED THE SIZE OF THE WETLANDS

Exhibit 1 - Aerial view of wetlands before destruction.

<u>Exhibit 2</u> - We used Toal Engineering's drawing that were submitted to the City of Dana Point to get the dimensions of the lot. The actual length of the wetlands is 235 feet not the 175 feet that Tony Bomkamp has listed.

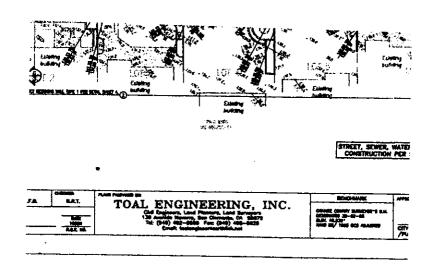
Exhibit 3 - Toal's Engineering' Grading and Erosion Control plans show the tree line in green. The yellow marks the headwall and also the easement under my property.

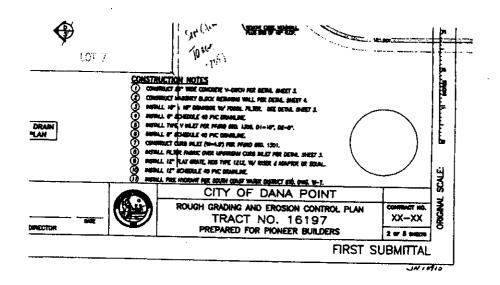
Exhibit 4 - This shows a blow up of the easement/storm drain that straddles both properties.

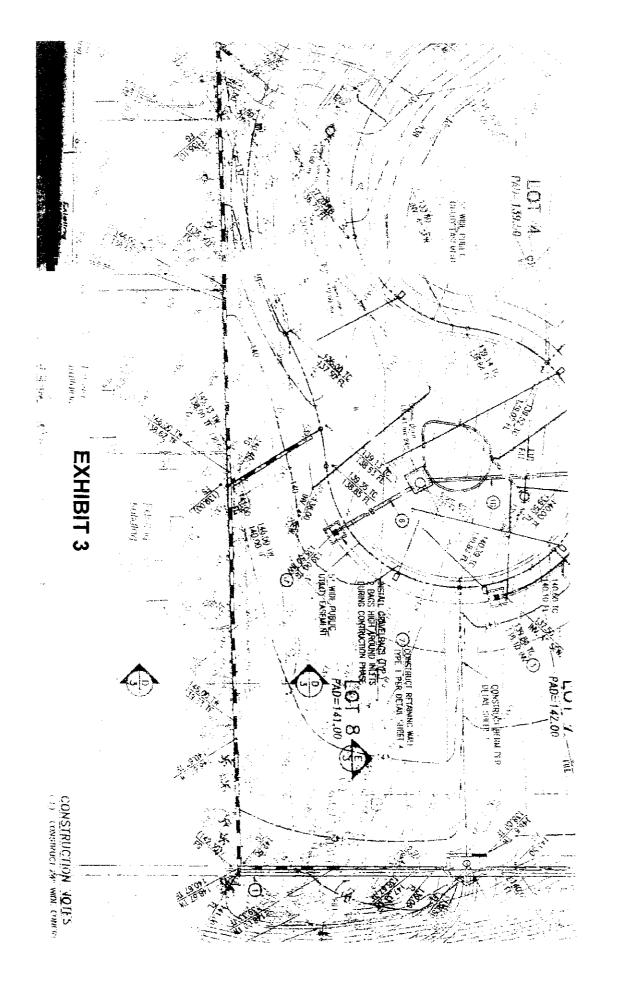
**Exhibit 5** - Diagram of how the wetlands restoration fits into the Pioneer project.

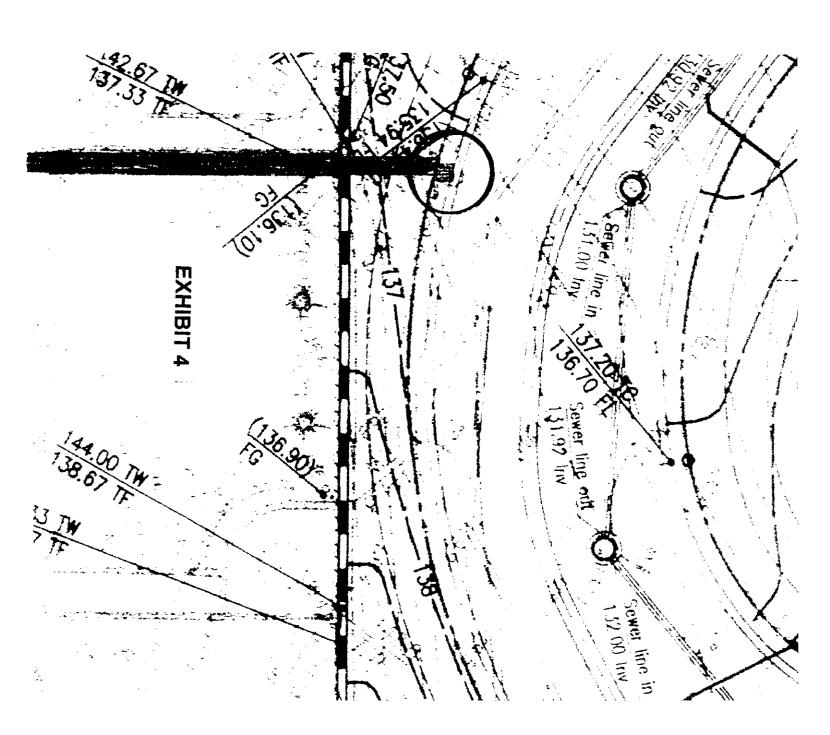
Exhibit 6 - AutoDesk QuickCAD 8 delineation of wetlands.

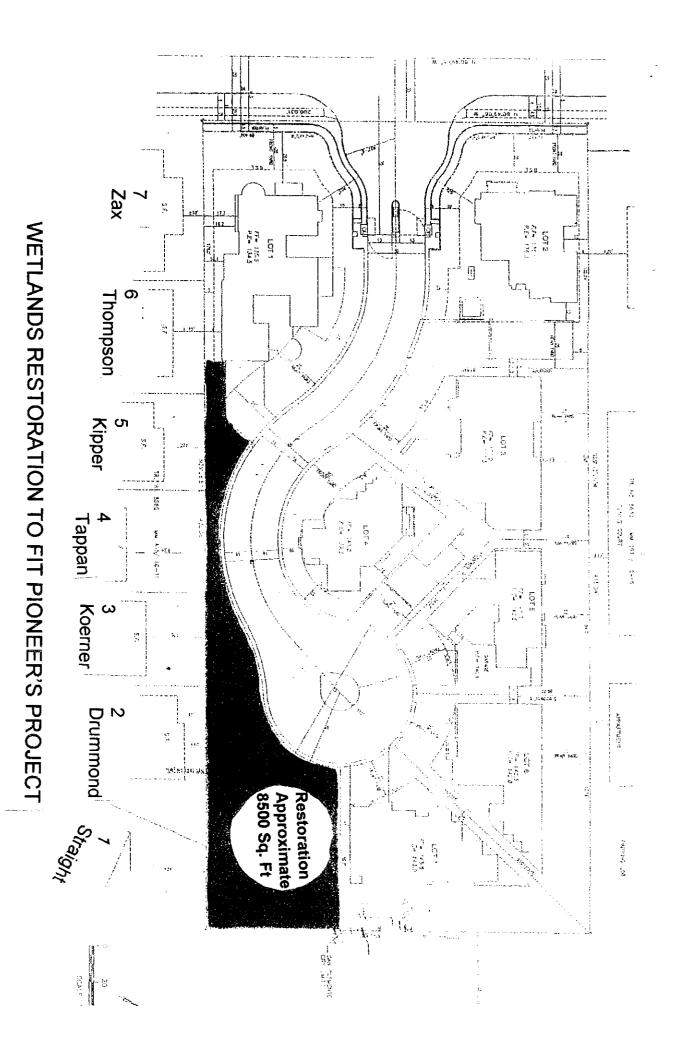












**EXHIBIT 5** 

# WETLAND'S DELINEATION

Attached are calculations regarding the size of the wetlands in Capistrano Beach. Toal Engineering's Plans were used to denote the actual length and width of the Pioneer project. We have calculated the square footage of the actual wetlands using AutoDesk QuickCAD 8. The red line is just the outline of the wetlands. The yellow line which follows the tree line and vegetation line was used to calculate the size.

### WETLAND ACTUAL SIZE

14,915.78 Square Feet .342 of an Acre

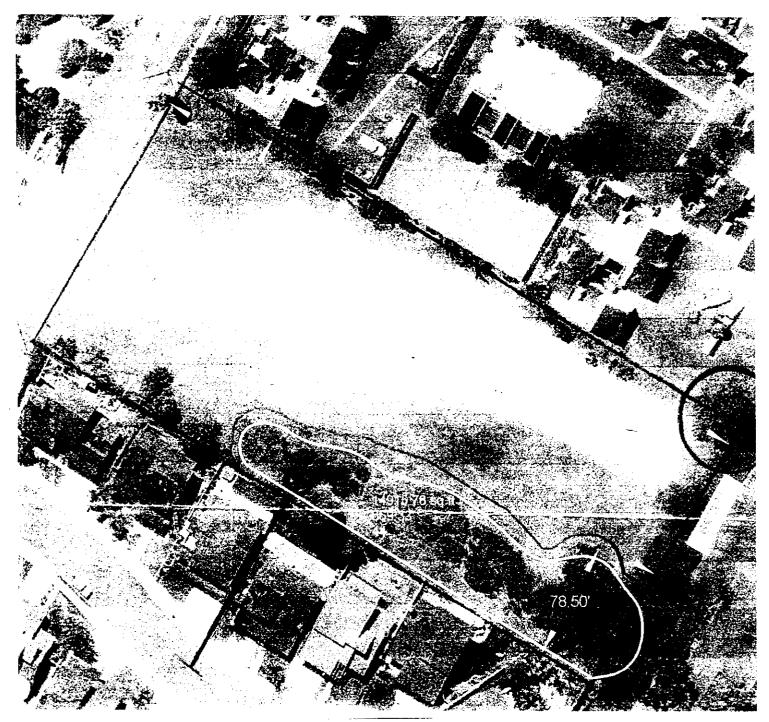
Mitigation at a 5:1 ration = Total of 1.712 Acres

It is my understanding that the Corps' jurisdiction is different than The California Department of Fish and Game. DFG can go to the tree line, where as the Corps can not.

At the present time the only delineations that were done of the wetlands were by Tony Bomkamp of Glen Lukos associates. The field drawings were crude and not accurate. He guessed at the dimensions.

\*\*\*\*\* I also want to state that these dimensions were based on someone who DID NOT think this was a wetlands in the first place. Therefore, I doubt if much time was spent to give accurate dimensions.

# AUTODESK QUICKCAD 8 DELINEATIONS



**EXHIBIT 6** 

We took Tony Bomkamp's field drawings and overlaid them on the original wetlands aerial photo to disprove his length and various widths.

Exhibit 7 - Overlay of field drawings on Wetlands

Exhibit 8 -. Pioneers Photos showing wetlands. On Toal's plans (Exhibit 3) shows the trees and vegetation behind the Straight's house (#1 location on Exhibit 7). Width of wetlands/tree line approximately 55 feet. Not 18' to 25 ' as stated on field drawing.

Exhibit 9 - Pioneers photos of vegetation behind the Drummond's house (#2 location on Exhibit 7).

Exhibit 10 - Picture of wetlands behind the Straight's and the Drummond's (#1 & #2Location on Exhibit 7).

Exhibit 11 - Top photo taken by Pioneer of vegetation behind the Drummond's and Koerner's (house on right)
Bottom photo behind the Koerner's (#3 location on Exhibit 7).

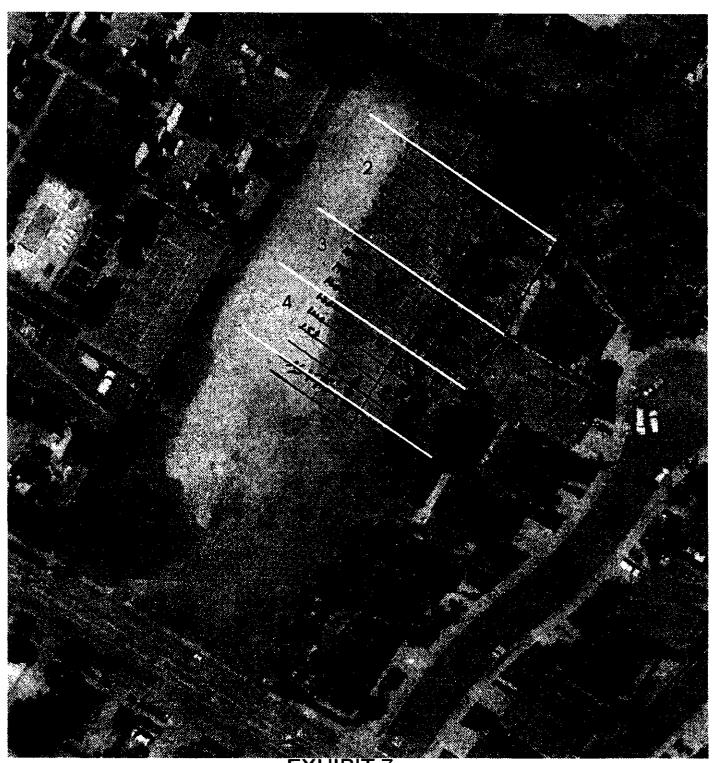
Continued - Section 3 - page 2

Exhibit 12 - Photos of vegetation behind the Tappan's (# 4 location on Exhibit 7) and the Kippers.

Exhibit 13 - Vegetation behind the Tompson's (house on Left) and the Zax's.

Exhibit 14 - View of lot from Camino Capistrano.

# TONY BOMKAMP'S FIELD DRAWINGS



**EXHIBIT** 7

(Our numbers based on exhibits)

#### JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS (should be) = .1415 ACRE

The .1415 Acre is based on the following numbers and the photo documentation

On the overlay, we divided up the wetlands into four (4) locations. The enclosed photos show that Tony Bomkamp's field drawings <u>do</u> <u>not</u> show the actual water line of our wetlands.

<u>Location 1</u> - Exhibits 8, 9, 10 & 11 show the vegetation of approximately 55' in width. The water line is approximately 30' wide as denoted by Exhibits 17, 18,19 & 20.

Square Footage -  $30' \times 50' = 1500$ 

<u>Location 2</u> - Exhibits 8, 9 & 11 shows the vegetation to be approximately 45' in width. The water line is approximately 25' as denoted by Exhibits 17, 18 & 22.

**Square Footage - 25' x 83' = 2075** 

<u>Location 3</u> - Exhibits 11 shows the vegetation to be approximately 40' in width. The waterline is approximately 25' as denoted by Exhibits 16, 17 & 18.

Square Footage - 25'  $\times$  50 = 1250

<u>Location 4</u> - Exhibits 11 & 12 shows the vegetation to be approximately 30' in width. The waterline is approximately 20' as denoted by Exhibits 17 & 21.

Square Footage -  $20' \times 67' = 1340$ 

-0.1415 Acre

# PHOTO BEHIND STRAIGHTS (House on left)





**EXHIBIT 8** 

# PHOTO BEHIND DRUMMOND'S (House on right)





**EXHIBIT 9** 

### WETLANDS BEHIND STRAIGHT'S & DRUMMOND'S



**EXHIBIT 10** 

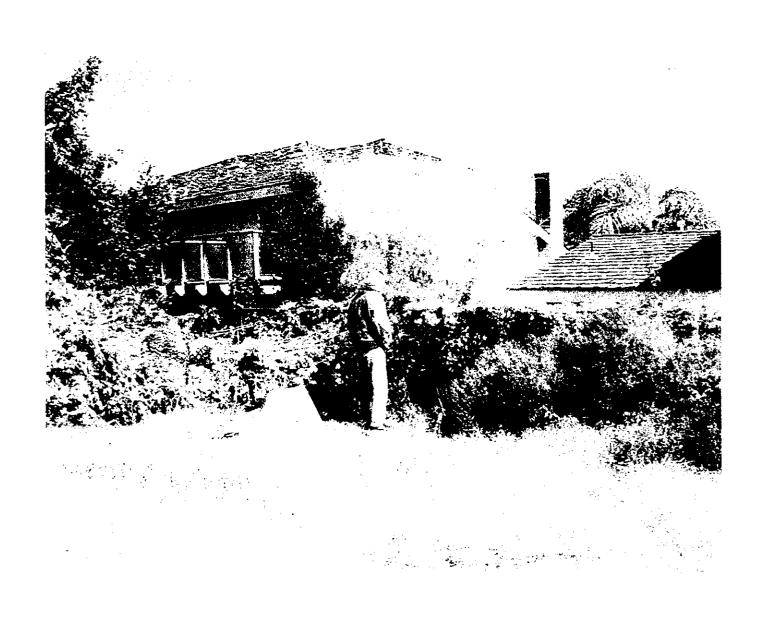
# PHOTOS BEHIND TAPPAN'S & KIPPER'S (Tappan's on the left)





**EXHIBIT 12** 

# PHOTOS BEHIND THE THOMPSON'S AND ZAX'S (Thompson's house on left)



### VIEW OF LOT FROM CAMINO CAPISTRANO



**EXHIBIT 14** 

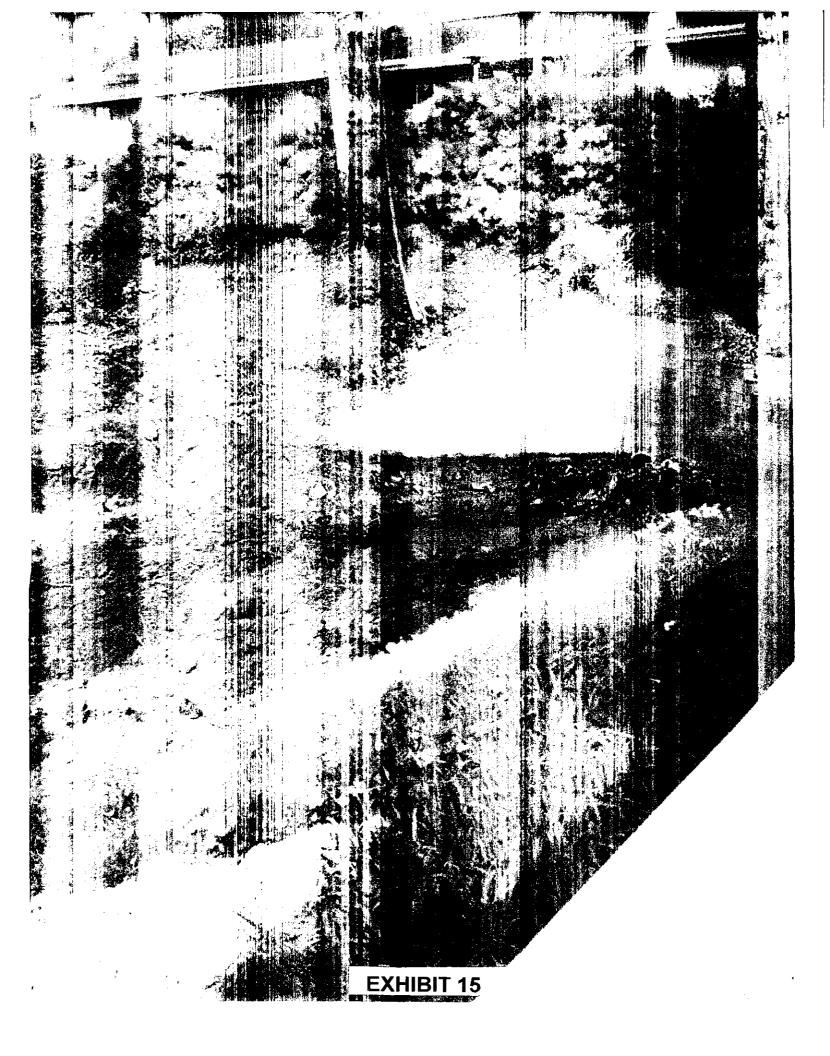
The next four exhibits show the Wetlands after it was grubbed, but before it was excavated. New growth and water shows the wetlands to be much wider than Tony Bomkamp's field drawings.

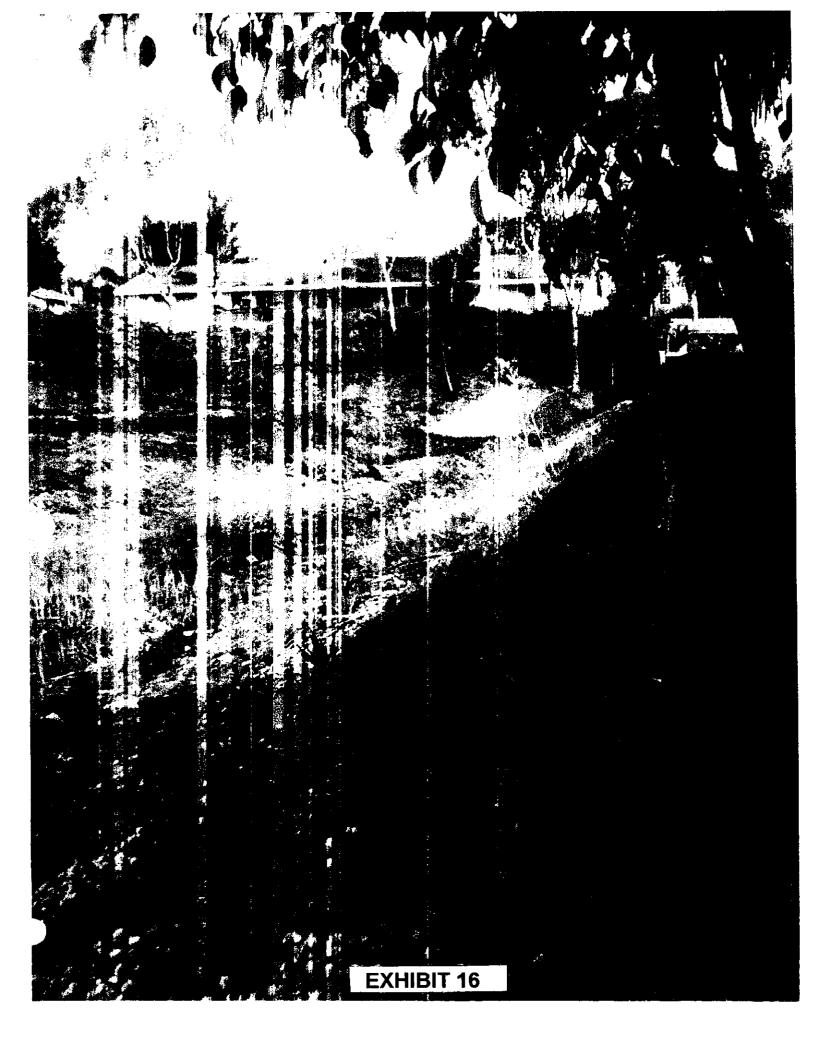
Exhibit 15 - Wetlands at headwall

Exhibit 16 - Wetlands from Tappan backyard

Exhibit 17 - Wetlands overall view of width

Exhibit 18 - Close up of regrowth of cattails and water. Much wider than 3' to 4' as stated on field drawings.





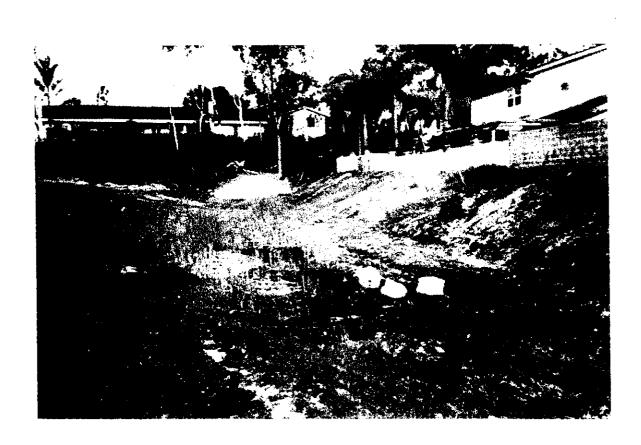
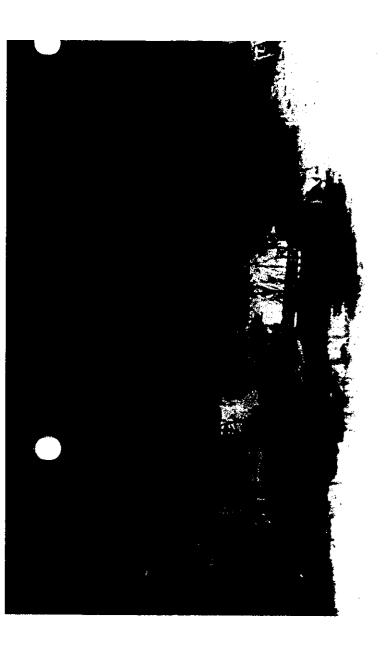
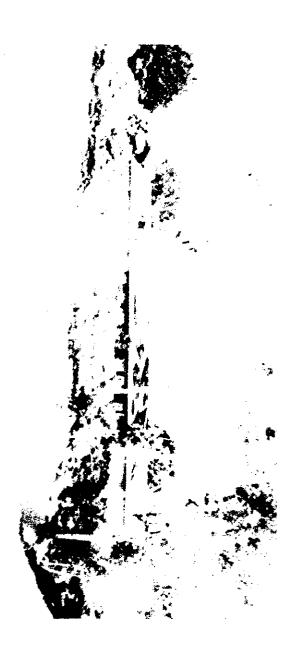


EXHIBIT 17





The following exhibits show the destruction of the wetlands. This is a much bigger wetlands than Pioneer Builders wants you to think it is.

Exhibit 19 - They continued grading and the water continued to flow

Exhibit 20 - More excavating and wider.

Exhibit 21 - More excavating.

**Exhibit 22** - They are excavating behind my house. This is where Tony Bomkamp says the wetlands is 3'. The arm of the excavator extends 35 feet.

- Excavator stuck in wetlands!

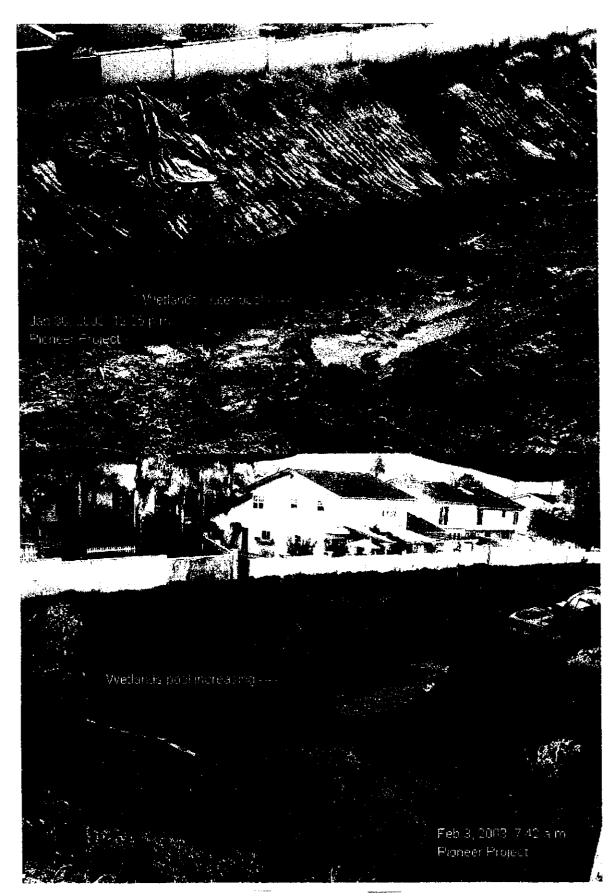
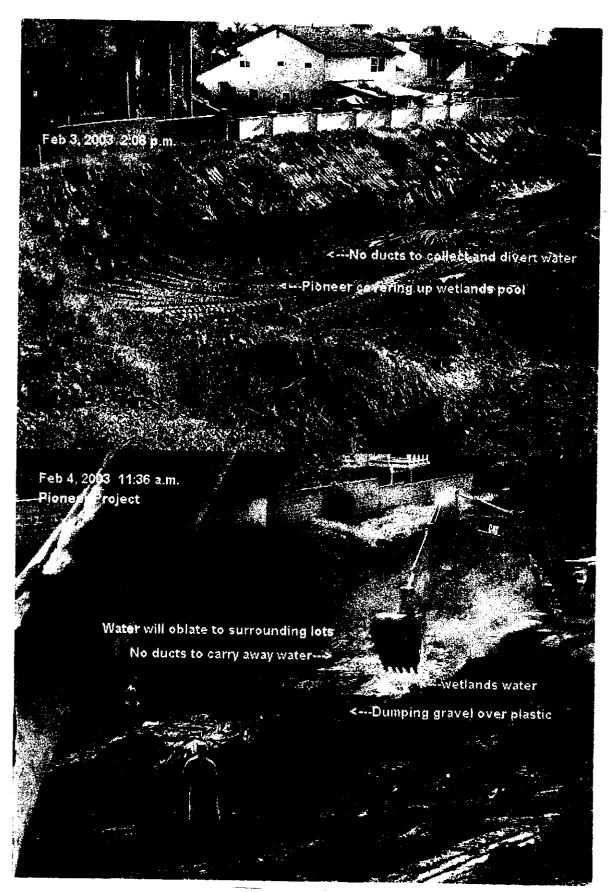


EXHIBIT 19



**EXHIBIT 20** 



**EXHIBIT 21** 

**EXHIBIT 22** 



U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS APRIL 7, 2003 - 4:52 PM Reclassified the wetlands from an .04 to a .066 acre.

However, we feel that the wetlands is <u>much</u> larger than .066 acres. Based on the enclosed documentation we would appreciate your help in getting the delineation of the wetlands changed.

#### **Additional information from The Corp**

February 25, 2003, 8:46 AM - e-mail to Paul Douglas February 25, 2003, 1:14 PM - e-mail to Tony Bomkamp April 7, 2003, 12:04\_- e-mail to Tony Bomkamp

# RECLASSIFIED SIZE OF WETLANDS

Castillo del Mar - question of extent of jurisdiction

Page 1 of 1

#### Pam Tappan

Corice.J.Farrar@spl01.usace.army.mil From:

Sent: Monday, April 07, 2003 4:52 PM

To: prtappan@cox.net

Russell.L.Kaiser@spl01.usace.army.mil; Mark.Durham@spl01.usace.army.mil; dcobb@dfg.ca.gov; Cc:

LCrum@dfg.ca.gov; haasj@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov

Subject: Castillo del Mar - question of extent of jurisdiction

#### Pam.

As a follow-up to your conversation with Mark Durham earlier this afternoon, he asked me to email you with our updated information about the extent of Corps jurisdiction. We appreciate your providing us with additional information about the site via your emails dated April 4, 2003, and we feel we have a more accurate depiction of the site resources. As a result of the your input, we added an 30 linear feet at the top end of the drainage and 30 feet at the bottom for a total of 235 linear feet of drainage, which we used to re-calculate Corps jurisdiction at approximately 0.06 to 0.066 acre, as opposed to the original 0.05 acre.

Although the aerial photographs provide an indication that vegetation was present prior to grubbing, the aerial and pre-disturbance photos indicate much of the width of the vegetated area was comprised of upland species, e.g., coyote bush scrub. As I explained in our previous telephone and email conversations, the method you used to estimate the 0.342-acre area is an expansive method, which includes non-Corps jurisdictional areas.

We appreciate your feelings of loss for the vegetation and open space adjacent to your home. However, we are authorized by Congress to regulate only a subset of that area, i.e., streambeds and adjacent wetlands, which we

The Corps has imposed a deadline for Pioneer Builders to submit an application packet is April 9. It is still the Corps' expectation that the mitigation plan will accommodate a reasonable on-site wetland component and an offsite component. We will inform you of our final decision once we have taken final action.

Cori Farrar Project Manager Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, CA 90053

Tel: 213-452-3296; Fax: 213-452-4196 E-mail: corice.farrar@usace.army.mil

COE website: www.spl.usace.army.mil/regulatory/

Subject: FW: Dana Point Wetland at Castillo del Mar site (Corps no. 200300461-CJF)

#### Paul Douglas:

The purpose of this email is to confirm receipt and review of Glenn Lukos Associates pre-construction notification (PCN; dated February 19, 2003) and draft conceptual mitigation plan (dated February 2003), which were submitted on behalf of Pacific Environmental Planning for the Castillo del Mar Project in Capistrano Beach. Russ and I discussed your PCN and Initial proposal for compensatory mitigation and have the following comments.

First is concerning the question of Corps jurisdiction. Again, as stated in the Mark Durham's letter dated February 4, 2003, the basis of our jurisdictional determination that the drainage under site conditions prior to impact for the Castillo del Mar Project, is three-pronged: evidence of present hydrology connected to a jurisdictional waterbody; evidence of historical drainage feature; and evidence of three-parameter wetland. More specifically, prior to impact the drainage received flows from a storm drain outfall at the upstream end of the property and the perennial surface flows transerved the property to the inlet to the City of Dana Point's storm drain system, which outlets to the Pacific Ocean. Furthermore, the Corps maintains that the drainage was a remnant feature of a previously disturbed coastal drainage tributary to the Pacific Ocean that had existed on and adjacent to the site. The historical aerial photograph! s (particularly 1947, Scale 1" = 600', provided by the City) and the confirmed presence of alluvium (per geotechnical report by ViaGeos, dated March 26, 2001) support this position. The presence of hydrology, wetland indicator vegetation, and three-parameter wetland that may be even wider than what was defineated.

Secondly, we would accept a reduction from 0.1 acre, but our calculations indicate the acreage of impact to be 0.05 acre. As stated above, the wetland area would appear to be wider than indicated on Tony Bomkamp's sketch. This is based on the soil sample (E-3) taken by ViaGeos, which indicated presence of mottled soil in upper 4-7 feet. The sample was taken at approximately 42 feet north of the southern property line. Regardless, my calculations of area of impact, based on Tony's sketch, figure the jurisdictional area impacted to be approximately 0.048 to 0.054 acre, depending on whether for one of the 20-foot lengths a width of 25 feet or 40 feet was considered. The total of 0.05 acre is approximate and based on totaling the 20-foot long segments with widths averaged on upper and lower x-sectional widths. Compensatory mitig! ation at a ratio of 1:5 requires at least 0.25-acre of mitigation be implemented.

Thirdly, we assume you are in the process of investigating off-site alternatives for compensatory mitigation. The draft mitigation plan is without a level of detail sufficient for us to make a determination of whether the proposed on-site and off-site mitigation strategy would mitigate for the prior impacts. We would entertain offsite compensatory mitigation, but we need more details about where, when, what, and how the mitigation would occur. Furthermore, the initial proposal for on-site mitigation is insufficient to offset the impacts to waters. We would consider on-site mitigation if a surface flow and vegetative connection were re-established between the upstream flow and vegetation corridor at the eastern border of the lot. Additionally, to achieve water benefits and limited habitat quality, the buffers should be at least 60 feet wide; the upland buffers would be considered at a mitigation ratio of 1:10.&n! bsp;

The draft conceptual mitigation plan was a starting point for discussion; however, we require a greater level of detail to make a permit decision. Please provide a more detailed mitigation plan by March 4, 2003. Also, please note you are required to submit a draft bond with itemized costs to the Corps for approval by March 4. Without sufficient detail, we can not approve the draft bond.

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Cori Farrar Project Manager Regulatory Branch

#### Pam Tappan

Farrar, Corice J SPL [Corice.J.Farrar@spl01.usace.army.mil] From:

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2003 1:14 PM

To: Tony Bomkamp (E-mail)

'mmcguirelaw@cox.net'; "Paul Douglas' (E-mail)'; 'Jeremy Haas (E-mail)'; 'Laura Crum (E-mail)'; Cc:

Kaiser, Russell L SPL; 'Greg Gearheart (E-mail)'

Subject: RE: Dana Point Wetland at Castillo del Mar site (Corps no. 200300461-CJF)

Tony:

This email is to follow-up with our telephone conversation today. I spoke with Russ Kaiser and he echoed the concerns I expressed to you about mitigation alternatives.

As to the initial on-site mitigation plan, we appreciate your efforts to provide some water quality treatment benefits; however we want to ensure that any approved on-site mitigation area would be sufficient to provide

With regard to the Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary as a potential off-site mitigation area, we think it would be inappropriate as a compensatory mitigation site for this activity primarily because it in the Santiago Creek watershed, which is completely outside the immediate coastal watersheds, and secondarily because Tucker is ongoing enforcement action. Given the controversial nature of the Castillo del Mar project, we think it behooves . Pacific Environmental Planning and Pioneer Builders to select a mitigation site that is within the immediate Dana Point/San Clemente/San Juan Capistrano area. Toward that end, we suggest you investigate potential sites in the San Juan Creek Watershed such as Horno Creek, San Juan Creek, or Arroyo Trabuco, if not some of the small local coastal watersheds. We recommend you contact the cities of Dana Point, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, and perhaps Michael Wellborn of the County of! Orange. Also, we want to emphasize the need to try to consolidate the compensatory mitigation site(s). It would be ineffective to have several small sites. Please keep in mind that if you are unable to develop an acceptable off-site mitigation plan, we would require all of the mitigation to be performed on-site.

Thank you for your call. Please discuss the proposed plan with the Regional Board and Fish and Game for their input. If you should have any questions, comments, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Cori Farrar Project Manager Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, CA 90053

Tel: 213-452-3296; Fax: 213-452-4196 E-mail: corice.farrar@usace.army.mil

COE website: www.spl.usace.army.mil/regulatory/

---Original Message From: Farrar, Corice J SPL

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2003 8:46 AM

Paul Douglas' (E-mail)

'mrmcguirelaw@cox.net'; Jeremy Haas (E-mail); Laura Crum (E-mail); Kaiser, Russell L SPL; Durham, Mark SPL; Greg Gearheart (Email); Troxel, Tiffany A SPL

#### Pam Tappan

Farrar, Corice J SPL [Corice.J.Farrar@spl01.usace.army.mil] From:

Sent: Monday, April 07, 2003 12:04 PM

To: Tony Bomkamp (E-mail); Thienan Ly (E-mail)

Pam Tappan (E-mail); Kaiser, Russell L SPL; Durham, Mark SPL; 'Paul Douglas' (E-mail); Mark Cc:

McGuire (E-mail)

Subject: Acreage of Impact at Castillo del Mar site (200300461-CJF)

#### Tony/Thienan:

Based upon the attached construction diagram (Exhibit 6), which shows the location of storm drain outlet and inlet, the linear footage of the drainage appears to be closer to 235 feet, rather than an estimated 175 to 180 feet (as shown on GLA's site visit sketch). Since Tony's sketch is only estimate and we have received differing information, we ask that you provide us with a site plan or engineering drawing to scale indicating the length from the outlet to inlet. Also, if you have more detailed information to support the 180-foot length, we ask that you provide it as well. At this time, we require more accurate information about the pre-impacted drainage.

If you can provide the information prior to the April 9 submittal deadline, we would appreciate it. However, you may opt to include it in your application package on Wednesday. Thank you.

<< Exhibit 6- Correct site plan.jpg>> Cori Farrar Project Manager Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, CA 90053

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COE website: www.spl.usace.army.mil/regulatory/